



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Brenda Jones
202-226-4673

Rep. John Lewis Commemorates The 40th Anniversary of the death of Dr. King

Yesterday, Rep. John Lewis spearheaded House passage of two pieces of legislation. One was a U.S. House of Representatives resolution honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and encouraging the nation and the Congress to pause in silent memory of his life and his sacrifice.

The other was the Civil Rights Act Commemorative Coin bill that authorizes the Treasury Department to issue a coin paying tribute to a bill that has been called the most important, most effective legislation the U.S. Congress has passed in the last 50 years. The bill still needs to be passed by the Senate and signed by the president to become law. Rep. Lewis will hold a news conference today encouraging Senate passage of the bill. Senator Debbie Stabenow and Senator Barack Obama are the Senate co-sponsors.

Commemorative coins are authorized by Congress to celebrate and honor American people, places, events, and institutions. While the coins are legal tender, they are not minted for general circulation. As well as memorializing important aspects of American history and culture, commemorative coins help raise money for important causes. A portion of a coin's cost is collected as a surcharge that benefits community organizations. Under H.R. 4770, the Civil Rights Commemorative Coin is expected to raise up to \$2.5 million for the United Negro College Fund, which provides scholarships and internships for minority students and assists our nation's historically black colleges and universities.

The text of the coin bill is available online on Rep. Lewis's website www.house.gov/johnlewis. And the text of the King resolution follows this release. KING RESOLUTION TO FOLLOW.

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